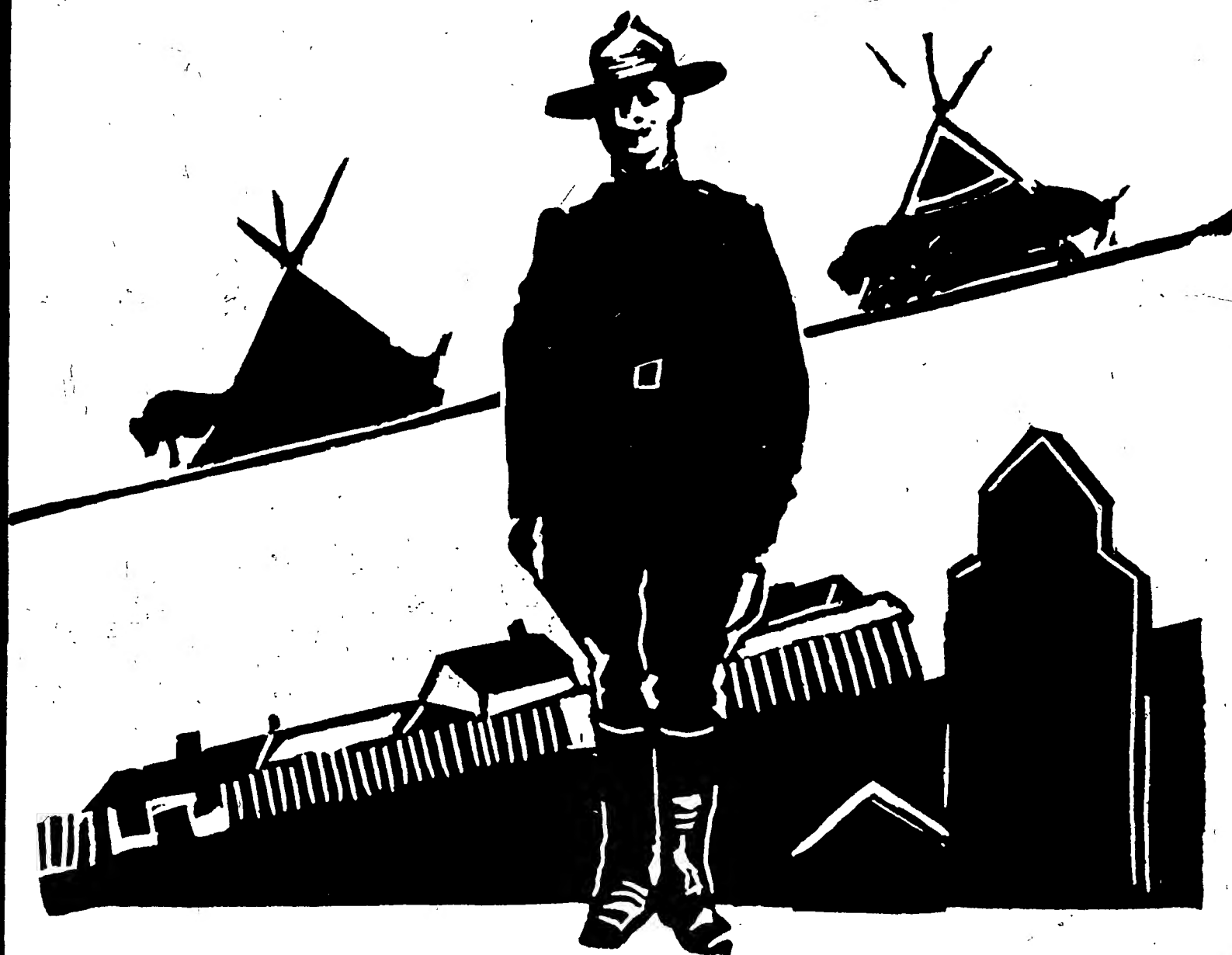
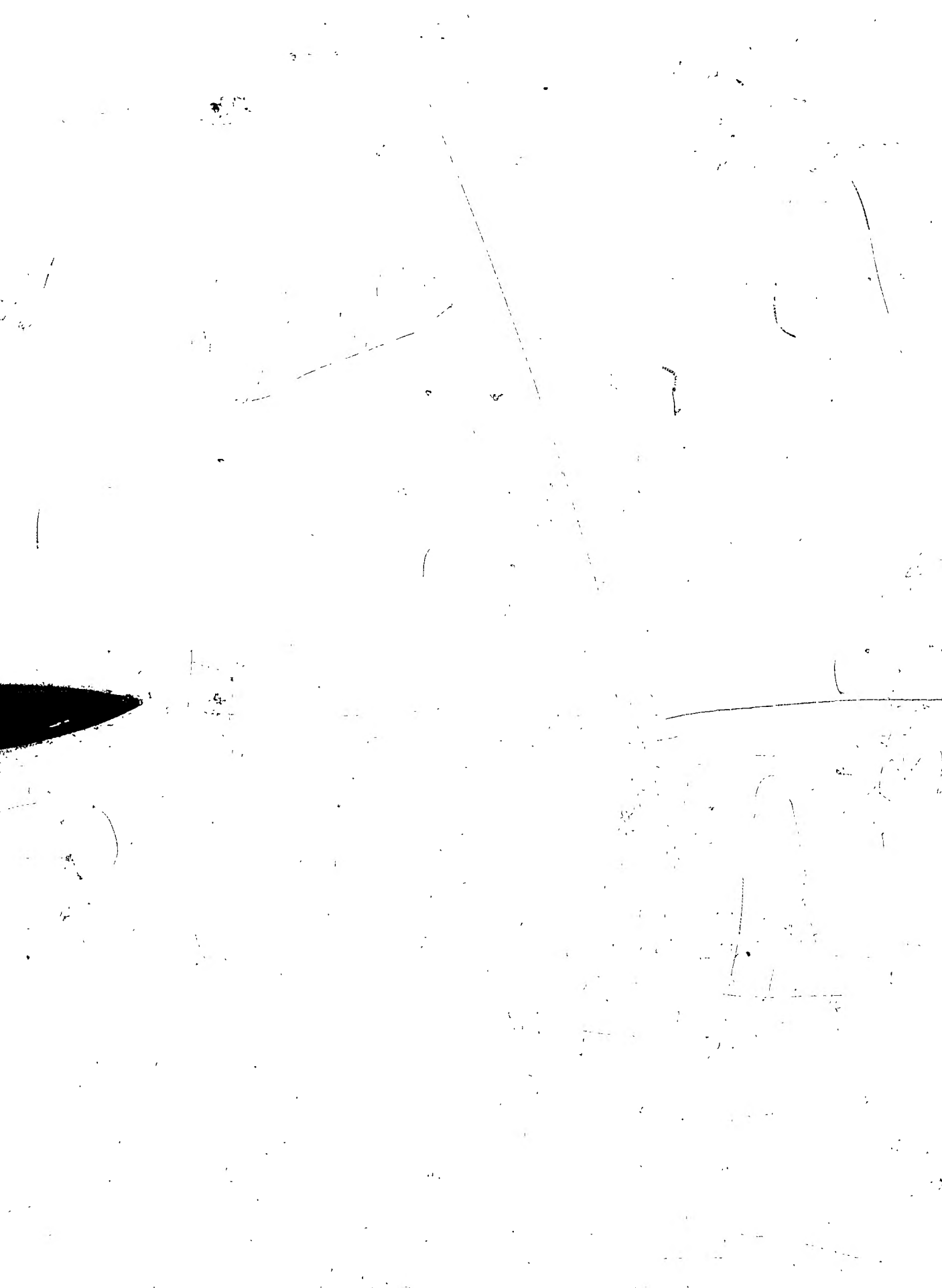


COLOURED COVER

STORY OF MACLEOD





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*The Story
of Macleod . .*



by Members of the Macleod

Sketch

Club:

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LUCY BEDINGFIELD

THELMA DEROCHIE

HAROLD DIXON

ELEANOR GUNDERSON

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ANNIE MacGOWAN





THE STORY OF MACLEOD BEGINS LONG AGO . . .

The sheltered spot on the banks of the Old Man River where the first fort of the N.W.M.P. was to be built was a favorite camping spot for the Indian tribes as they passed back and forth along the oldest highway of the West—the Old North Trail—which ran along the edges of the mountains from the far south to the far north. The deep ruts cut by the sharp edges of the travois have only recently disappeared from the surface of the prairie.

In those days, "Sun" was a great god and a festival, the Sun Dance, was held in his honor each year when the Saskatoons were ripe. "Moon" was the wife of "Sun" and "Morning Star" was their son. Many objects of nature also had powerful spirits that helped control the lives of the people—trees, rivers, lakes, the earth, fire and water, thunder and lightning and the animals. When "Sun" first looked down and saw the prairie was bare he covered it with grass. He put trees and bushes along the rivers. He sent his Red Men to dwell there and gave them the buffalo—the flesh for food and the skins for robes and coverings for their lodges. He also gave them the beaver, deer, bear, wolf, rabbit and many other animals, that they might have abundance of food and clothing.

At first they had only clubs and snares to catch these animals so skins were scarce. It was necessary for several families to share a lodge and as they moved about the country each person carried a pole or pack of skins, while travois, loaded with bundles, were tied to the dogs that they might also carry their share. Life was easier when "Sun", through the sacred spirits of the wolf, beaver or other animals, showed the Red Man how to make knives and arrow-heads from stone and how to make bows which would kill from a distance. Then there were skins enough for a lodge for each family.



It became still easier to hunt and to move their dwellings in the wake of the grazing buffalo herds after warriors had captured some ponies from their enemies, the Snake Indians, for the ponies took them into the very heart of the herds where the animals were easy to hit, and they became the burden bearers when the camps were moved.

The Indians of the region belonged to the great nation known as the Blackfeet. Some say the name came from the color of their moccasins, blackened by the black soil of the country through which they travelled—others that the charred prairies, after the fires, discolored their moccasins.

When the Blackfeet Nation became too large it was divided into three sections—the Bloods, whose hunting ground was the prairie between the rivers now known as the St. Mary's, the Belly and the Old Man—the Peigan or Wealthy Indians (from the number of their belongings), who lived in the foothills—and the Blackfeet, who lived to the north.

The first white man entered Southern Alberta approximately 260 years ago. In 1689, Henry Kelsey, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, came with cloth, tools, trinkets and firearms to trade for buffalo robes and furs.

Peter Fidler, also of the Hudson's Bay Company, travelled south to Chief Mountain in 1792 and is recognized as the first white man to set foot on this soil.

As the years passed the Indians became friendly with some of the trespassing white men, one of them being Alexander Henry, who spent the year of 1800 with the Peigans. That same year David Thompson also visited the Peigans, coming south from Rocky Mountain House to Tongue Creek near the present town of High River.

In 1858 Captain Palliser explored the trackless wastes of Alberta, from Edmonton south to the boundary. Captain R. A. Blackiston of this expedition journeyed south to the present Waterton Lakes, while James Hector entered and explored the Kicking Horse Pass. Palliser gave an exhaustive report on the country but advised against settlement or railway construction.



While caravans of Red River carts moved north-west along the Saskatchewan River, whisky traders crept in upon the Blackfeet, Peigans and Bloods from the south. Healy and Hamilton, in 1867-68, built Fort Hamilton at the junction of the St. Mary's and Belly Rivers near the place where Lethbridge now stands. This was burned by the Blackfeet and rebuilt. Different versions occur of how it acquired the name of Fort Whoopup. It was strongly built. Facing the open spaces were loopholes in the walls through which generously-watered whisky was passed to the Indians in exchange for furs. Other whisky posts were built also but Fort Whoopup remained the centre and from it terror spread in all directions. The traders robbed the Indians they had made drunk. The Indians, in their fury, killed the traders and each other. In one year eighty-five were killed in drunken quarrels.

In the autumn of 1870 was fought the last great Indian battle in Canada, between the Crees and Assiniboianes on the one hand and their hereditary enemies, the Blackfeet Confederacy, on the other. Smallpox had laid a heavy hand on the Blackfeet camps along the Belly and St. Mary's Rivers and their weakened condition prompted their enemies to choose this time to strike a death blow. Nearly a thousand braves descended on the Blackfoot camp but they failed in their attempt to take them by surprise. A bloody battle followed and only the superior fighting qualities of the Blackfeet saved their camps from annihilation. They drove the enemy off but the casualties were heavy on both sides.

Early missionaries also had their eyes on the Blackfoot country as a territory much in need of their services but the Blackfeet were hostile to missionaries and traders alike. Father Lacombe made sorties southward to the Indian encampments, while George and John McDougall, father and son, settled among the Stoney Indians at Morleyville, west of what is now the City of Calgary, and at one time paid a visit to Fort Kipp and Fort Whoopup.

So serious were the reports of disorder drifting eastward that the Dominion Government undertook to investigate the situation.



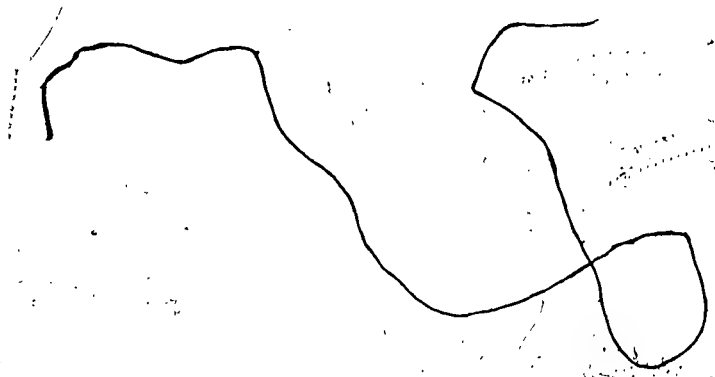
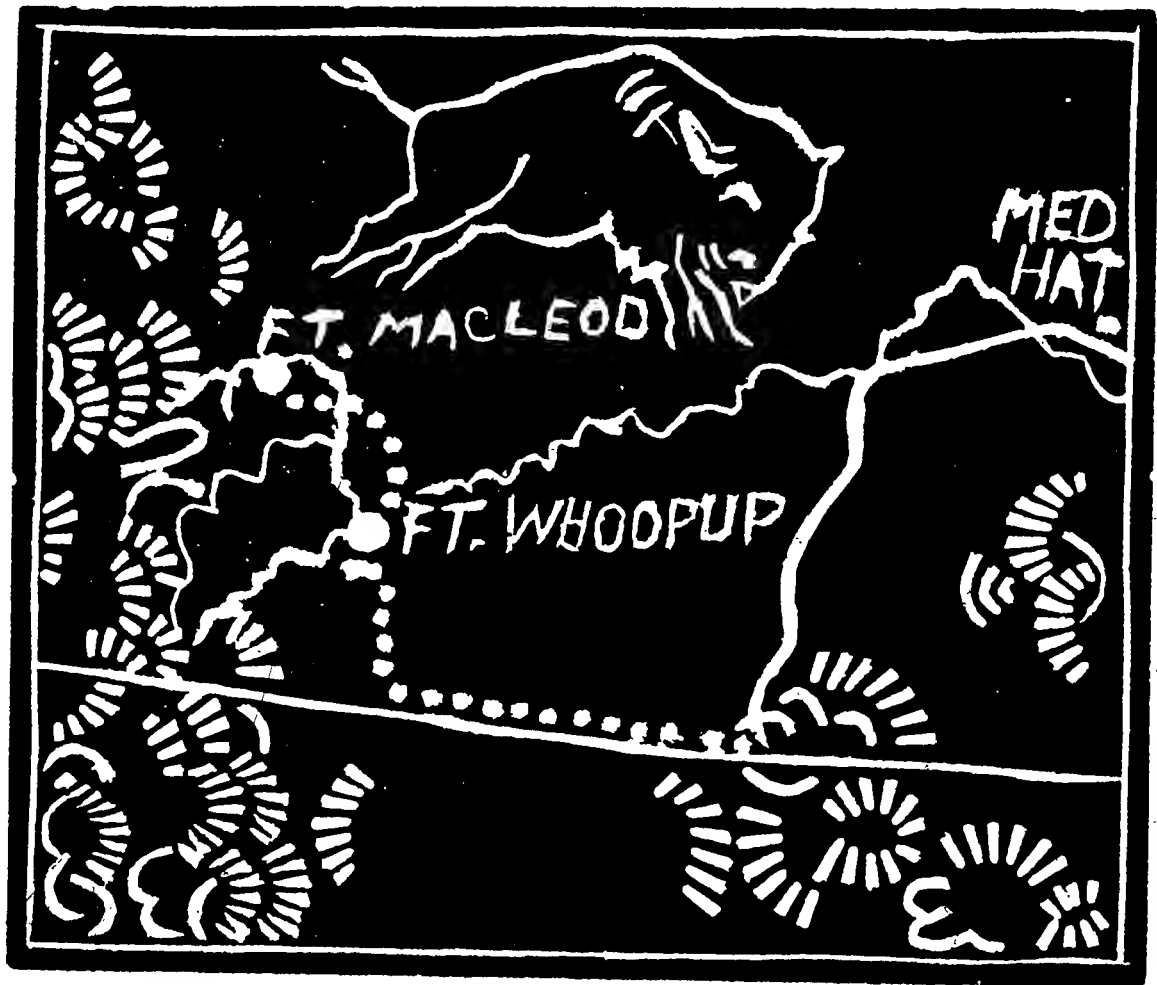
In 1870 the organization of the Province of Manitoba was under way and Winnipeg had already become the gateway to an enormous area stretching westward approximately 1,000 miles from the Red River Valley to the Rockies and from the U.S. Boundary to the forest country of the North Saskatchewan. A new order had to be established throughout what was naturally a vast Indian battleground and buffalo pasture. Everywhere in this uncontrolled expanse, not only was an adequate and efficient force needed to furnish security for settlers and Indians, but to provide an efficient instrument for the assertion of national authority, the enforcement of law, and eventually the safe construction and operation of a proposed transcontinental railway.

Under these conditions the N.W.M.P. had its beginning. In 1873 a complete plan for the organization, equipment and distribution of the Force was proceeded with. It was to be a semi-military body, the immediate objective being to stop the liquor traffic among the Indians; to regain their respect and confidence; to break them of their old practises by tact and patience; to collect customs dues, and to perform all duties such as a police force might be called upon to carry out.

On July 8th, 1874, the entire Force of six troops struck westward from the little settlement of Dufferin on the Red River; the chief objective being the forks of the Bow and Belly Rivers and Fort Whoopup. A young British officer, Lieut.-Col. George A. French, was Commissioner in charge. Col. James F. Macleod was Assistant Commissioner.

Day after day the travel-worn cavalcade, accompanied by ox-carts, wagons, cattle for slaughter, several field pieces, mowing machines, and other equipment, faced new difficulties with stout hearts. Readiness to make the best of every situation soon became an essential part of duty. The long grind from the Red River left its impress on the little army.

The junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers was finally reached, and with provisions exhausted, with horses, oxen and beef cattle reduced in numbers, the red-coated troopers, after more than two months of hard travel, turned southward, through immense herds of buffalo, to the Sweet Grass Hills. From there, Commissioner French and Col. Macleod visited Fort Benton to arrange with the I. G. Baker Company for provisions. Macleod engaged



young Jerry Potts, a Peigan half-breed, as guide and interpreter for the Force. As a trailer and scout he was to prove himself a marvel, even amongst the most experienced Indians. His ability to travel through blinding snow storms or blackest night was uncanny.

While Commissioner French went with "D" and "E" troops to Swan River, far to the north-east and eventually returned to Dufferin, the starting point of four months earlier, Assistant Commissioner Col. James F. Macleod was left with three troops, or 150 men, to establish a post at some point from which he could commence to wage war on the whisky smugglers and establish law and order among the Indians. That post might easily have been at the site of Fort Whoopup, for while in Fort Benton they had considered buying the already constructed fort, but the price of \$20,000, which the traders asked, was considered too high. On the advice of Jerry Potts, the guide, he selected a site on the Old Man River, which he reached on 13th of October, 1874. The fort he built was named Fort Macleod in his honor.

The site chosen for the fort was on a level strip of land on a loop of the river, where the high banks afforded shelter and the position commanded a view of the route frequented by the United States' traders. Building material and firewood were available and prairie grass ensured the police of feed for their horses. There was an abundance of game ranging from prairie chicken to antelope and buffalo, while the river teemed with fish.

Tents were set up and the next step was to build a permanent camp so Colonel Macleod ordered the immediate construction of hospital and stabling accommodation. The barracks were laid out in the form of a square. A trench was dug in which was set 12-foot cottonwood posts, unpeeled, upright in the ground, three ridge poles on top; these being overlaid by rails, which in turn were covered with grass and earth to keep out the frost. It was not rainproof and long after the rain stopped, dripping from the roof would continue inside. The bare ground provided a good natural flooring. Windows and doors were on their way by bull team from Fort Benton. D. W. Davis, father of the present Mayor of Macleod, and then representing the I. G. Baker Company, gave



valuable help in building the post and later erected a small group of buildings for his firm, including a store complete with frontier necessities. Near the police stockade several smaller stores and "eating places" were opened. Freightors, bullwhackers, muleskinners, reformed whisky traders, adventurers and Indians were mingling with the police. There was no class distinction. Honesty in dealings and kindness were the codes required. The pioneer populace had begun to live on terms of friendship and within a year Fort Macleod had introduced a new order of life. During the building of the fort, Indians were constant visitors, curious and eager to know what was going on. From them the police derived much valuable information as to the location of the whisky traders.

About the fort there was constant activity. Timber had to be hauled out and cut up, buffalo hunted for meat, tanned buffalo skins made into wearing apparel to replace the uniforms which were not suitable to withstand the rigors of the severe winter, and constant repairs were required, as the sod-covered roof collapsed and the cold, damp earthen floors caused colds which filled up the temporary hospital.

There could be no relaxation in the task of rounding up whisky traders. The police were but a handful in an almost unknown country, a completely isolated band, charged with the responsibility of thousands of Indians. The respect the Indians had for their protectors was evident as a couple of police often had to go into encampments of several hundred lodges to make arrests and rarely encountered any opposition, although the tribes had it in their power to wipe out the whole force had they felt so inclined.

The first Christmas dinner was cooked by the police chef; the main dishes consisting of buffalo meat and real plum pudding. Dancing followed with half-breed girls as partners, there being as yet no white women around.

Much of the respect the Indians had for the force was due to Colonel Macleod. A bold and aggressive leader, he had made his mark in early life and received many decorations for his services. His tact and dignity, and his natural ability as a leader, fitted him for the difficult task assigned him. No praise can be too high for Colonel Macleod and his band of fearless men who endured the long and trying winter of 1874 at Fort Macleod.



Following closely on the arrival of the police, cattle ranchers came into Alberta and its settlement became permanent.

The McDougall Bros. brought 50 head of horses and cattle from Edmonton to Morleyville in 1871 and 100 head in 1872. Thus they enjoy the credit of bringing the first range cattle into Alberta.

Howell Harris claimed he was the first man to winter cattle in Alberta, having kept a few cattle through the winter at the Trading Post west of High River in 1872.

The Mounties found difficulty in finding suitable horses, their only source of fresh mounts being from the Indians. These poorly trained and neglected horses were anything but desirable for patrol duty. So it was the Government finally came to their assistance by establishing a ranch very close to where Pincher Creek now stands. John Herron was selected to manage this ranch.

In 1875, after peace and order had been fairly well established, Henry Olsen and Joe McFarlane started a dairy herd a few miles west of Macleod. They found a ready market for their produce at the fort, the demand being greater than they could supply.

Christie and Emerson at this time began importing cattle and horses. They were able to sell as many as they could bring into the country for a hundred dollars a head. In 1876 a large herd of cattle was brought over the U.S. line by Lynch of Cochrane. In 1877 Fred Kanouse turned a bull and 21 cows loose on open range, therefore lays claim to be the father of ranching.

By this time the buffalo had ceased to be a threat to the ranchers. In 1877 the Indians were given their own reservations, leaving hundreds of miles of choice rangeland, grasses cured by nature for winter and an ample supply of water.

By 1879 shacks began to appear on the trail from Calgary to Macleod and on to Pincher Creek. Hudson's Bay men, trappers and whisky traders all developed the fever and along with a number of immigrants, ranching was off to a great start. The N.W.M.P. also were imbued with this spirit and many of their retiring men became our leading cattlemen. Having previously been



trained in law and government, these men contributed largely to the peace and order of the country. Ed. Maunsell and his brother chose this time to have Tom Lynch bring their cattle into Alberta from Montana. These men suffered severe hardships. Floods of the Old Man River nearly claimed their lives, along with many of their fellow ranchers, cutting off their food supply and causing near starvation.

Trouble with the Indians and continual losses of their stock led the cattlemen to the decision of wintering their herds in Montana. This necessitated a general round-up and branding of the cattle. Sgt. Bill Parker was captain of the first round-up with 16 owners participating. Old N.W.M.P. records give the names as follows: Harper & Dunn, Jimmy Murray, John Miller, Jim Bell, Bob Patterson and brother, Ed. Maunsell and brother, Joe McFarlane, Mrs. Armstrong, Morgan, Bill Burton, Henry Olsen, S. Brouard. This venture proved unsatisfactory as their losses continued in Montana. It was suspected that another hardship was to be endured, that of rustlers.

In 1880 the Government decided to further ranching ambitions by revising the land regulations and under Act of Parliament provided for the leasing of lands up to 100,000 acres not liable to cancellation at an annual rental of \$10.00. Later revised to \$20.00 per 1,000 acres. Lessees were required within three years to place one head for every ten acres, later reduced to one head for every twenty acres. These rules were confusing and often abused as large leases of thousands of acres were sometimes never used by their rightful owners and many ranchers were not even sure of their own lands. As the ranching industry grew it was realized that some co-operation was necessary. The Western Stock Association was formed at Macleod with W. Cochrane as manager and Mr. Godsall as vice-president. In 1895 the Alberta Stock Association was organized.

The first great loss was in the winter of 1886-87, the weather being so severe that 50 to 60 per cent of many herds were wiped out. It was estimated that 20,000 head had been winter killed north of the Old Man River. With the buffalo's disappearance went the hunter too, and wolves and coyotes increased as a menace to all kinds of stock. Carelessness in branding and sparks from the C.P.R. were two of the chief causes of prairie fire that accounted for great losses of feed and cattle. It is said that Fred Kanouse dipped a mangy horse in a kerosene mixture and proceeded to brand it. The animal became a running torch that set fire to thousands of acres of good range land. As the



cattle herds increased so did the rustlers. Several men made themselves conspicuous by the large herds they accumulated practically overnight. Some were caught and punished severely and others were smart enough to get by. 1906-7 proved to be another dreadful winter to the cattlemen and thousands of their herds perished; one starving, freezing herd is reported to have come from the north through the very streets of Macleod searching for feed, many dropping dead on the street as they passed through.

In spite of hardships, cattle ranching expanded until the turn of the century when exports became so heavy as to threaten the industry. The anxiety of the Government to populate the west led the C.P.R. to break up their accumulated holdings into large ranches. In 1904 the Cochrane Ranch Co. sold out to the Mormon Church at \$6.25 an acre.

In 1905 the Dominion Land Agent reported most of the cattlemen in the south to be reducing their herds or disposing of them, and turning their attention to the raising of thoroughbred stock. While the major industry seemed on the decline, some extended their holdings and took over large leases from the C.P.R. From these pioneers the cattle industry has progressed to its present importance. From these ranches too, have come some of the world's finest cowboys. Our yearly stampede is a continuation of the trials of skill that took place at the round-up of long ago and a tribute to those fine men who, under great hardships, pioneered our country.

The rolling hills and prairie surrounding Fort Macleod abound in a short nutritious grass which fed the thousands of buffalo which roamed as far as the eye could reach. In a few years the herds were gone, the slaughter being tremendous, 15,000 robes were shipped by the I. G. Baker Co. during the winter and spring of 1874 and 1875. The loss of the buffalo, the Indians' chief food, imperilled the future of tribes to the extent that the Government encouraged agriculture. This got its real start, as did ranching, from the original police who left the force after the expiration of their three-year term to take up land. Oats were first planted to help augment the prairie hay as feed for the police horses.

Francis Willock, in 1882, found in his pocket a head of wheat which he brought from Manitoba and from it a start was made. Dave Grier sent to Brandon for five bushels of seed wheat and is considered to be the first to grow wheat in a commercial way.



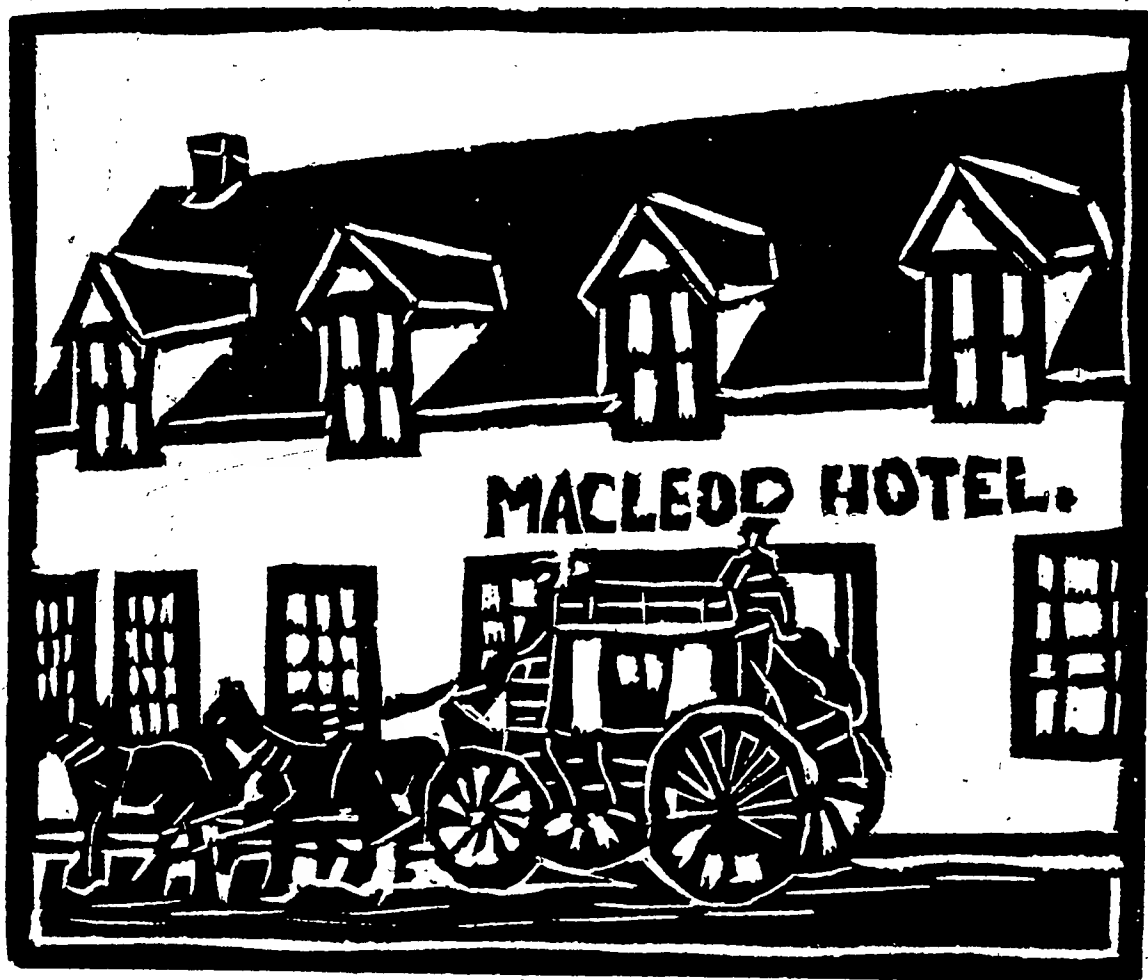
The Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company in an extensive colonization campaign, advertising the wonderful grain production possibilities, encouraged the farmers to open up new land and the big "land rush" was on. Cheap land, and the wealth of the golden grain, were magic words and homesteading became the order of the day. Encouraged by their first successes word soon spread and thousands left the Western States and Eastern Canada to break up the rich virgin soil.

Today wheat growing is one of our chief industries, vast acreages of hard wheat of the highest quality for milling purposes fill our huge elevators yearly, to await transportation to nearly every country in the world.

Before the fort had been in existence many months the Old Man River began to make its personality felt. To the Blackfeet "Old Man" was the embodiment of the creative spirit of the country, gentle and cunning, powerful and capricious. His namesake, the river, had all his characteristics. Usually a quiet, gentle stream, at the time of melting snow it changes to a raging monster. Again and again, in this mood, the river attacked the growing town, undermining and washing away buildings and uncovering the bones of the dead in their last resting places, until at last, ten years after the raising of the first stockade, it was decided that the site, which had been suitable as a fort, was no longer suitable for the growing community which was soon to number 500 permanent residents.

A new site was chosen a mile westward, on a high bench land and the flag was run up at the new barracks on May 24th, 1884. Within a year all the business places were moved.

Just ten years after the coming of law and order to the wild, lone country, a barracks and town was set up with no stockade and no means of defense. The following year the Riel Rebellion caused such anxiety amongst the residents that two log bastions were built and sentries mounted; but the Blackfeet, listening to the advice of their great chief, Crowfoot, remained quiet



and the bastions finally rotted and were removed without ever having been used.

For several years life in the new town ran along smoothly. The population steadily increased, businesses were opened, churches built, schools organized. But then new difficulties arose. The C.P.R., the all-powerful creator and placer of towns in the West, did not approve of the site chosen by the police. In 1892 the citizens applied to the Government to grant a charter of incorporation as a town that they might have a means of self-defense and the following year elected their first mayor and council. In this year the town ceased to be Fort Macleod and became the Town of Macleod.

The C.P.R. built roads to Calgary and the Crowsnest Pass and the town had two stations, one two miles west at West Macleod and another two miles south at Haneyville. But the Company, however great, did not possess the compelling arguments the river had used and before many years the newly-incorporated town had won its argument and tracks and station were moved to the town.

The completion of the railway made a definite break, the frontier town, the oldest in Southern Alberta, became modern. In accordance with the expansive mood of the early years of the 20th century, the town was equipped with modern utilities of every sort. "Let posterity bear the burden" was the slogan so far as expense was concerned but the citizens of Macleod have enjoyed such comfort and convenience in their paved streets and roads, natural gas, electric power and water that the burden has been an easy one. The town has a fine library and a live Chamber of Commerce. Moreover, every facility for recreation is provided through a large skating and curling rink, tennis courts, baseball diamond and golf course and one of the finest theatres in the Province; the latest addition being the fine swimming pool, whose wrought iron gates will be a tangible memorial to the gallant gentleman from whom the town derived its name.



Macleod has always had a fortunate location at the crossroads of commerce. The trails worn down on the prairies by the roving bands of Indians were followed by the heavily-laden bull trains and the picturesque stage coaches. These in turn were superseded by the railways, the fleet Greyhound coaches, and private cars, vehicles of every sort en route east, west, north or south, to destinations in all parts of North America. And during the war years, the planes from No. 7 S.F.T.S., which filled the sky overhead, provided a preview of the future with "the heavens filled with commerce—pilots of the purple twilight dropping down with costly bales."

July, 1874, 300 men rode out of Dufferin to bring law and order to the banks of Old Man River. The Riders of the Plains are now a legend, the scarlet tunics are seen only on rare occasions, but here in the town which they created, three members of the R.C.M.P., their successors, still maintain the peace which they established. Backed by the most efficient means of transportation, using every scientific method of crime detection, they are on the alert, both night and day not only to bring the criminal to justice, but to forestall future crime by safeguarding the children of the town and taking effective steps to prevent juvenile delinquency whenever it is possible to do so.

And so the story of Macleod begins and ends with the Mounted Police.



(All illustrations in this booklet are hand cut Linoleum Blocks by members of the Macleod Sketch Club.)

Macleod Memoirs

- 1874—First Church Services Conducted by Colonel Macleod.
- 1875—First Sewing Machine in Alberta from Fort Benton, J. Stuttatord, tailor, N.W.M.P.
First Garden Grown at Old Fort by Mr. Gallagher and Chas. Ryan.
First White Women, Wives of Officers, Arrive in Camp.
Saw Mill Installed by the Police.
Inspector Shurtliff's House Was the First Home to be Shingled.
Oldest House, now owned by Martins. Built on the island and moved into Town.
- 1877—Bloods, Peigans, and Blackfeet Became Wards of Government on Reservations.
- 1878—First Doctor, Dr. George A. Kennedy.
- 1880—First Bicycle, owned by Norman Macleod.
- 1882—Macleod Gazette, owned by C. E. D. Wood, Second Newspaper in Alberta.
- 1883—First Agricultural Fair in Southern Alberta, held in October at Macleod.
First Bank, owned and operated by John Cowdry.
First Established Wheat Grower, D. J. Grier.
First Regularly Established P.O. Previous mail hauled by N.W.M.P.
- 1884—North-west Cattle Association, headquarters at Macleod.
- New Fort Built on Bench Land.
Weekly Mail Established Between Macleod and Calgary.
- 1885—Greatest and Last General Round-up in Southern Alberta, at Fort Macleod. 100 men, 15 mess wagons and 500 horses.
Last Bull Team from Benton to Macleod.
- 1886—Telegraph Lines Constructed to Macleod.
- 1887—First Elected Representative, D. W. Davis.
Leased Ranch Lands, 600,000 acres, Cancelled in Macleod and Thrown Open for Settlement.
- 1888—Hon. James F. Macleod, C.M.G., to Judgeship.
- 1889—South-west Stock Association and Alberta Stock Growers' Association.
Johnny Franklin, best known and most famous horseman, came to Alberta.
- 1892—Public Meeting to Ask for Charter.
- 1893—Last Trip with Mail by Stage Coach.
First Mayor, John Cowdry.
C.P.R. South to Macleod.
- 1898—First Excursion to Crowsnest.
- 1901—First Automobile in Alberta, owned by W. F. Cochrane.

